

St. Phillip's Church
Charleston
Charleston County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-75

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of South Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

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Saint Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church
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Historical Data:

The first Episcopal Church in Carolina was built in Charleston about 1682. It was stately and large, built of black cypress upon a brick foundation at the S.E. corner of Broad and Meeting Streets. It was usually called the English church, but its distinctive name was "Saint Philip". This church became too small for the increasing population and an Act of Assembly was passed about 1710 for building a new church of brick. This was erected in Church Street. The old wooden church was taken down in 1727. The town was divided into two parishes by an Act of Assembly June 14, 1751. All south of the middle of Broad Street was formed into a separate Parish, called Saint Michael's and its Church was built upon the spot on which the old Saint Philip's stood.

A description of the early Saint Philip's Church is given in B. R. Carroll's Historic Collections of South Carolina written by George Milligan in 1763, as follows:

"Saint Philip's Church is one of the handsomest buildings in America. It is of brick plaistered and well enlightened on the inside; the roof is arched except over the galleries; two rows of Tuscan pillars support the galleries and arch that extend over the body of the Church; the pillars ornamented on the inside, with fluted Corinthian pilasters, whose capitals are as high as the cherubims over the center of each arch, supporting their proper cornice: The west end of the Church is adorned with four Tuscan columns, supporting a double pediment, which has an agreeable effect; the two side doors, which enter into the belfry, are ornamented with round columns of the same order, which support angular pediments that project a considerable way, and give the Church some resemblance of a cross: Pilasters of the same order with the columns are continued round the body of the Church; over the double pediment is a gallery with bannisters; from this the steeple rises octogonal, with windows in each face of the second course, ornamented with Ionic pilasters, whose intablature supports a balustrade; from this the tower still rises octogonal, with sashed windows on every other face, till it is terminated by a dome, upon which stands a lanthorn for the bells, and from which rises a vane in the form of a cock."

Saint Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church

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This Church was destroyed by fire in 1835. The present edifice was opened for worship in 1838.

Bibliography:

Carroll, B. R. - Historical Collections of
South Carolina

Dalcho, Frederick - An Historical Account of
the Protestant Episcopal
Church in S. C.

Curtis, Elizabeth Gibbon - Gateways and
Doorways of Charleston

Johnson, John - Historic Points of Interest
in and around Charleston

L. H. H. H. H.

TW 5/27/41

Addendum to:

St. Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church
146 Church Street
Charleston
Charleston County
South Carolina

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.